

VLR- 1/15/74 NRHP- 7/15/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia
COUNTY:
Carroll
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Sidna Allen House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
East side of Route 52			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Fancy Gap vicinity		Ninth (William C. Wampler)	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Carroll	035

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mrs. N. Rawden Weddle			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Route 1			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Hillsville	Virginia	51	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Carroll County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Hillsville	Virginia	51	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Washington	D.C.	11	

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: The Sidna Allen House is a richly ornamented example of a rural Queen Anne style house.

B. Condition of the fabric: The house appears to be in relatively sound structural condition, but it is in need of some major and many minor repairs.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Over-all dimensions: The ell-shaped, one-and-a-half-story house is three bays long.

B. Foundation: Brick.

C. Wall construction: Timber frame with white shingle, white weatherboarding, and large amounts of decorative wood trim.

D. Porches: A one-story shed porch or veranda shelters the entire west side and a portion of the north side of the house. The porch features a gazebo with a tall conical roof at the north elbow, and a balcony with balustrade above the central bay. The porch balustrade and that on the balcony are similar with a molded rail and turned balusters. Other ornamentation includes Eastlake brackets, a frieze decorated with tongue-and-groove board set at a forty-five degree angle, and cut and pierced scalloping along the bottom of the cornice. A small one-bay porch with similar decoration occurs at the end bay of the north side of the ell.

E. Chimneys: Two exterior, one at the east end of the ell, and one at the south side of the main block, and one interior chimney have elaborate caps with stone courses, stone insets, and corbelled courses of brick.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The doorway consists of a rectangular transom, flanking sidelights, and a four-paneled oak door. The surrounding simple symmetrically molded trim has quartered corner blocks.

2. Windows: The windows are surrounded by trim similar to that on the doorway. Most of the windows have one-over-one sash, but some of them are surrounded by small square lights in the Queen Anne fashion. Others have intricate designs picked out in leaded or leaded and stained glass. Several of the windows are in a tripart arrangement reflecting the classical Palladian window.

G. Roof: The gable roof is pierced by several hipped dormers and a large hexagonal tower with a faceted conical tower. Several large gables add to the interest of the roof line. All the cornices are made up of Eastlake brackets, and cut and pierced flat drops identical to those on the porch; the bargeboards are a larger version of the same motif. An iron cresting of circles within squares highlights the ridges. The roof is covered with slate.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: Under its decorated exterior, this house retains a traditional floor plan of a central hall flanked by a room on either side. In the ell the dining room is entered from the hall, and the kitchen opens off the dining room.

B. Stairway: The winding, closed-string stair with heavy balusters, and molded hand rail ascends in the rear of the hall.

C. Flooring: All the floors are oak except the living room, which

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

is maple.

D. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered walls and ceiling have been either papered or painted. Paneled oak wainscoting is featured in the hall and the dining room. Narrow vertical boards serve as wainscoting in the downstairs south bedroom.

E. Doorways and doors: The four-paneled oak doors are surrounded by symmetrical trim with corner blocks.

F. Trim: An interesting feature of the house is triple-hung, sliding louvered shutters at all the windows. Baseboards are employed.

G. Heating: Central heating is now employed in the house, but the mantels and fireplaces remain. The mantel in the south downstairs bedroom is carved soapstone in a rococo style. The elaborate mantel in the north room or living room is topped by a mirror surrounded by a bay leaf garland. The whole arrangement is decorated in relief with urns, swags, and bellflowers covered with gold leaf. Engaged Ionic columns frame the hearth opening, and white tiles with gold leaf cover the area between the columns and the opening.

IV. Site:

A. General setting and orientation: The house is set on a piece of high windswept ground near Fancy Gap. The site was chosen for its magnificent view across the hills to the west. The house is visible for several miles approaching on Route 58 from the north.

B. Outbuildings: An iron windmill and a stucco shed are immediately east of the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Set in a commanding position in the hills of Carroll County, the Sidna Allen House is a remarkably rich example of a Queen Anne style dwelling. The house would be worthy of note in any region, but its occurrence in a remote area of Southwest Virginia gives it added distinction. The house was designed by its owners, J. Sidna Allen and his wife, natives of the county, and was built by Preston Dickens, a local carpenter, in 1911. Since Allen had dreamed of owning the finest house in Carroll County for many years, this house is his personal creation and a realization of that dream.

Sidna Allen was a member of the so-called "Allen Clan" that was involved in the notorious Hillsville massacre of 1912 in which several people, including county officials and Judge Thornton Massie, were shot and killed in the county courtroom. At the time Sidna Allen's brother, Floyd, was on trial for allegedly helping his two nephews escape from police custody. After the first shot (whose source never has been accurately determined), a barrage of fire and general melee ensued.

Sidna Allen, who always maintained his innocence, was sentenced to life imprisonment, along with several others, and two members of the Allen family were executed. In 1926 Allen was pardoned by Governor Harry Byrd. During his tenure in prison, he learned the art of furniture making, and some of his very elaborate pieces, made from many pieces and varieties of wood, are collectors' items.

Soon after the shooting, Sidna Allen's house, finished only one year before and never completely furnished, was confiscated by the state. It was owned by Rawdon Weddle for many years and is now in the possession of Mrs. Weddle.

G.P.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, J. Sidna, Memoirs of J. Sidna Allen, Leaksville, North Carolina: Alwith Publishing Co., 1929.

Cooley, E. J., The Inside Story of the World Famous Court Room Tragedy, Charlottesville: 1962.

Gardner, Rufus L., The Courthouse Tragedy, Hillsville, Virginia, Mt. Airy; North Carolina: Reliable Printing Co., 1962.

Harrison, M. Clifford, "Murder in the Courtroom," Virginia Calvacade, V. XVII, N. 1, Summer, 1967, pp. 43-47.

James, Edgar, The Allen Outlaws, Baltimore: 1912.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 41' 49"	80° 41' 55"				
NE	36° 41' 49"	80° 41' 26"				
SE	36° 41' 30"	80° 41' 26"				
SW	36° 41' 30"	80° 41' 55"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 23 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION:		Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	
STREET AND NUMBER:		221 Governor Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Richmond	Virginia	51	

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

